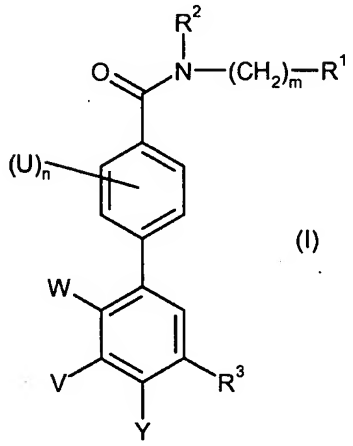
Amendments to the claims

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one to three groups independently selected from oxo, cyano and $-S(O)_pR^4$, and a C_{3-7}cycloalkyl ~~optionally~~ substituted by ~~up~~ one to three groups independently selected from oxo, cyano, $-S(O)_pR^4$, OH, halogen, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NCOR^5$, $-COOR^5$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NHSO_2R^5$ and $-NHCONHR^5$,

R^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, or

$(CH_2)_mR^1$ and R^2, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a four- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or two additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulphur and $N-R^7$, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by one or two groups independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen and trifluoromethyl;

R^3 is the group $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_r-R^8$ or $-NH-CO-R^9$;

R^4 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, heterocyclyl optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl, and phenyl wherein the phenyl is optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen;

R^5 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and phenyl wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by up to two substituents selected from C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen,

R^6 is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^5 and R^6, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring optionally containing up to one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^7 is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

when r is 0 to 2, R^8 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, $CONHR^5$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11}, heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11} and heterocyclyl optionally substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11}, and

when r is 2, R^8 is additionally selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, $NHCOR^5$, $NHCONHR^5$, NR^5R^6 and OH;

R^9 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_s-C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, $-(CH_2)_t$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13}, $-(CH_2)_t$ heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13}, $-(CH_2)_t$heterocyclyl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13} and $-(CH_2)_t$fused bicyclyl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13};

R^{10} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-CONR^6R^{14}$, $-NHCOR^{14}$, $-SO_2NHR^{14}$, $-NHSO_2R^{14}$, halogen, trifluoromethyl, $-X-(CH_2)_j$-phenyl optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or C_{1-6}alkyl groups, $-X-(CH_2)_j$-heterocyclyl or $-X-(CH_2)_j$-heteroaryl wherein the heterocyclyl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{11} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen, or

when R^{10} and R^{11} are ortho substituents, then together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, R^{10} and R^{11} may form a five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated ring to give a fused bicyclic ring system, wherein the ring that is formed by R^{10} and R^{11} optionally contains one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R^{12} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_s$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -$CONR^{15}R^{16}$, -$NHCOR^{16}$, -SO_2NHR^{15}, -$NHSO_2R^{16}$, halogen, -$(CH_2)_kNR^{17}R^{18}$, oxy, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R^{13} groups and heteroaryl wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more R^{13} groups,

R^{13} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl and -$NR^{17}R^{18}$, or

R^{12} and R^{13}, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated ring to give a fused bicyclic ring system, wherein the ring that is formed by R^{12} and R^{13} optionally contains one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R^{14} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{15} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and phenyl wherein the phenyl group may be optionally substituted by one or more R^{13} groups,

R^{16} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{15} and R^{16}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^7, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{17} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and -$(CH_2)_s$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{18} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{17} and R^{18}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a three- to seven-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^7, wherein the ring may contain up to one double bond and the ring is optionally substituted by one or more R^{19} groups;

R^{19} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, oxy, -CH_2OC_{1-6}alkyl, trichloromethyl and -$N(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$;

X is selected from -O- and a bond;

U is selected from methyl and halogen;

W is selected from methyl and chlorine;

V and Y are each selected independently from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;

m is selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4, and when m is 1 to 4 ~~wherein each~~ at least one carbon atom of the resulting carbon chain is optionally substituted with one or two groups selected independently from C_{1-6}alkyl, and wherein the C_{1-6}alkyl group is optionally substituted by up to three OH groups;

n, p, r and j are independently selected from 0, 1 and 2;

q and k are independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3; and

s and t are independently selected from 0 and 1;

~~with the proviso that when R^1 is unsubstituted C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, m is not selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 and wherein each carbon atom of the resulting carbon chain may be optionally substituted with one or two groups selected independently from C_{1-6}alkyl;~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from C_{2-6}alkyl substituted by one or two groups independently selected from oxo, cyano and $-S(O)_tR^4$, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or two groups independently selected from OH and cyano.

3. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is hydrogen.

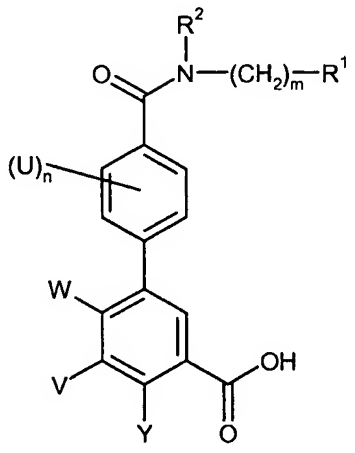
4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^8 is C_{3-6}cycloalkyl.

5. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein m is selected from 0 and 1 and wherein the carbon chain is optionally substituted by one or two methyl groups which are optionally substituted by OH.

6. (original) A compound according to claim 1 as defined in any one of Examples 1 to 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

7. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1 which comprises:

(a) reacting a compound of formula (XXII)



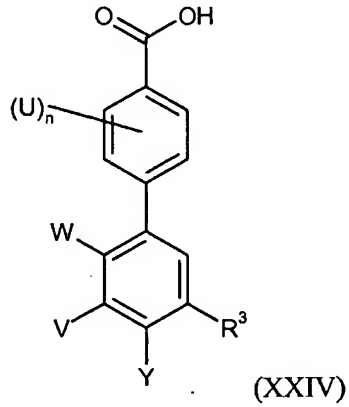
(XXII)

wherein R^1, R^2, U, W, V, Y, m and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXIII)

$$R^8\text{-}(CH_2)_r\text{-}NH_2 \qquad \text{(XXIII)}$$

wherein R^8 and r are as defined in claim 1,
under amide forming conditions optionally converting the acid compound (XXII) to an activated form of the acid before reaction with the amine compound ~~(XXIII))~~ (XXIII);

(b) reacting a compound of formula (XXIV)



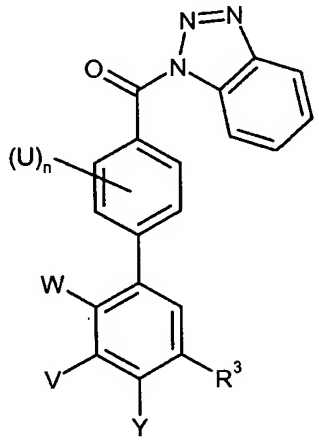
(XXIV)

wherein R^3, U, W, V, Y and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXV)

$$R^1(CH_2)_mNR^2H \qquad \text{(XXV)}$$

wherein R^1, R^2, m and n are as defined in claim 1,
under amide forming conditions;

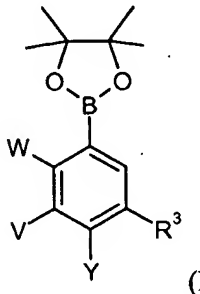
(c) reacting a compound of formula (XXVI)



(XXVI)

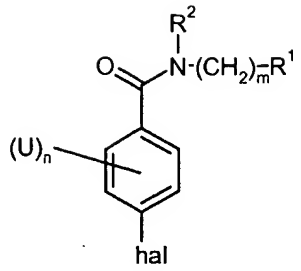
wherein R^3, U, W, V, Y and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXV) as defined above;

(d) reacting a compound of formula (XXVII)



(XXVII)

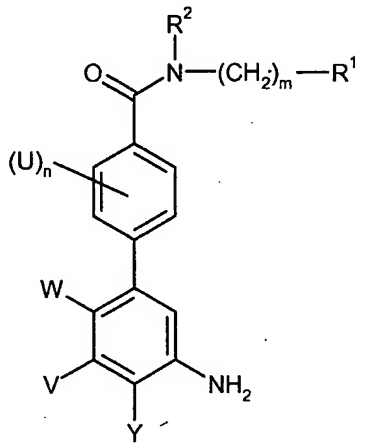
wherein W, V, Y and R^3 are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXVIII)



(XXVIII)

wherein R^1, R^2, U, m and n are as defined above and hal is halogen, in the presence of a catalyst; or

(e) reacting a compound of formula (XXIX)



(XXIX)

wherein R^1, R^2, U, W, V, Y, m and n are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula (XXX)

$$R^9CO_2H \qquad \text{(XXX)}$$

wherein R^9 is as defined in claim 1,

under amide forming conditions optionally converting the acid compound (XXX) to an activated form of the acid before reaction with the amine compound ~~(XXIX))~~ (XXIX).

8. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to any claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

9. (currently amended) A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and wherein the disease or condition mediated by p38 kinase activity or by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase are selected from rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, asthma, psoriasis, eczema, allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, adult respiratory distress syndrome, chronic pulmonary inflammation, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic heart failure, silicosis, endotoxemia, toxic shock syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, tuberculosis, atherosclerosis, neurodegenerative disease, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, aneurism, stroke, irritable bowel syndrome, muscle degeneration, bone resorption diseases, osteoporosis, diabetes, reperfusion injury, graft vs. host reaction, allograft rejections, sepsis, systemic cachexia, cachexia secondary to infection or malignancy, cachexia secondary to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), malaria, leprosy, infectious arthritis, leishmaniasis, Lyme disease, glomerulonephritis, gout, psoriatic arthritis, Reiter's syndrome, traumatic arthritis, rubella arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, acute synovitis, gouty arthritis, spondylitis, non-articular inflammatory conditions, pain, osteoporosis, restenosis, thrombosis, and angiogenesis.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

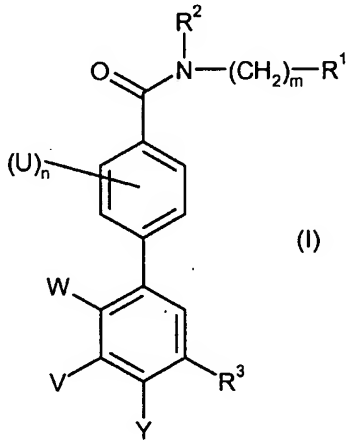
12. (new) The method according to claim 9 wherein the p38 mediated disease state is rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, asthma, chronic pulmonary inflammation, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Crohn's disease, neurodegenerative disease, inflammatory bowel disease, toxic shock syndrome, and osteoporosis.

13. (new) The method according to claim 12 wherein the p38 mediated disease state is rheumatoid arthritis, and psoriasis.

9 14. (new) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^3 is the group $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_r-R^8$.

10 15. (new) A compound according to claim 9 wherein R^8 is selected from C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, $CONHR^5$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11}, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiadiazolyl, or pyridyl all optionally substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11}.

11 16. (new) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 is a C_{3-7}cycloalkyl;

R^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, or $(CH_2)_mR^1$ and R^2, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a four- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or two additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulphur and $N-R^7$, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by one or two groups independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen and trifluoromethyl;

R^3 is the group $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_r-R^8$ or $-NH-CO-R^9$;

R^4 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, heterocyclyl optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl, and phenyl wherein the phenyl is optionally substituted by up to two groups independently selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen;

R^5 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and phenyl wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by up to two substituents selected from C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen,

R^6 is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^5 and R^6, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring optionally containing up to one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^7 is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

when r is 0 to 2, R^8 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, $CONHR^5$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11}, heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11} and heterocyclyl optionally substituted by R^{10} and/or R^{11}, and

when r is 2, R^8 is additionally selected from C_{1-6}alkoxy, $NHCOR^5$, $NHCONHR^5$, NR^5R^6 and OH;

R^9 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_s-C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, $-(CH_2)_t$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13}, $-(CH_2)_t$ heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13}, $-(CH_2)_t$heterocyclyl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13} and $-(CH_2)_t$fused bicyclyl optionally substituted by R^{12} and/or R^{13};

R^{10} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-CONR^6R^{14}$, $-NHCOR^{14}$, $-SO_2NHR^{14}$, $-NHSO_2R^{14}$, halogen, trifluoromethyl, $-X-(CH_2)_j$-phenyl optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or C_{1-6}alkyl groups, $-X-(CH_2)_j$-heterocyclyl or $-X-(CH_2)_j$-heteroaryl wherein the heterocyclyl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{11} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl and halogen, or

when R^{10} and R^{11} are ortho substituents, then together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, R^{10} and R^{11} may form a five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated ring to give a fused bicyclic ring system, wherein the ring

that is formed by R^{10} and R^{11} optionally contains one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R^{12} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_s$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -$CONR^{15}R^{16}$, -$NHCOR^{16}$, -SO_2NHR^{15}, -$NHSO_2R^{16}$, halogen, -$(CH_2)_kNR^{17}R^{18}$, oxy, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R^{13} groups and heteroaryl wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more R^{13} groups,

R^{13} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl and -$NR^{17}R^{18}$, or

R^{12} and R^{13}, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated ring to give a fused bicyclic ring system, wherein the ring that is formed by R^{12} and R^{13} optionally contains one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R^{14} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{15} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and phenyl wherein the phenyl group may be optionally substituted by one or more R^{13} groups,

R^{16} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{15} and R^{16}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a five- to six-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^7, wherein the ring is optionally substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{17} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and -$(CH_2)_s$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{18} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{17} and R^{18}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a three- to seven-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^7, wherein the ring may contain up to one double bond and the ring is optionally substituted by one or more R^{19} groups;

R^{19} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, oxy, -CH_2OC_{1-6}alkyl, trichloromethyl and -$N(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$;

X is selected from -O- and a bond;

U is selected from methyl and halogen;

W is selected from methyl and chlorine;

V and Y are each selected independently from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;

m is selected from 1, 2, 3 and 4, and wherein at least one carbon atom of the resulting carbon chain is substituted with one or two groups selected independently from a C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with one to three OH groups;

n, p, r and j are independently selected from 0, 1 and 2;

q and k are independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3; and

s and t are independently selected from 0 and 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.